

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating George Annarino as he celebrates his 70th birthday.

HONORING SAINTS PETER AND PAUL PARISH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to the Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Three Rivers, Massachusetts upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

For the past century, Saints Peter and Paul Parish has played an integral role in the religious, educational and cultural life of its communicants.

The church was started in 1905 as a Polish speaking home to the growing number of Polish immigrants who made Palmer and the surrounding villages of Three Rivers, Thorndike, Bondsville and Depot Village their new home.

Today, the Saints Peter and Paul Parish continues to celebrate time-honored Polish traditions and customs, while serving as the spiritual and religious anchor of the community.

It is my privilege to honor this beautiful parish by placing its history into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I also wish "Sto lat"—the traditional Polish wish for another 100 years—to the Saints Peter and Paul Parish. Enjoy this momentous occasion.

HISTORY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL PARISH

Records indicate that on September 28, 1608 when a group of settlers arrived in the Jamestown Colony, Polish immigrants were among them. Three hundred and seventy-two years later, there now number approximately eleven million Poles in the United States. History books have recorded the heroic exploits and great contributions that individuals from Poland such as Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski made during the early part of this country's history; yet it was not until the turn of this century that America felt the effects of mass migrations of men and women from Poland.

Political and religious persecution and severe economic hardship had resulted from the partitioning of Poland by Russia, Austria and Germany. From 1899 to 1910 almost one million people emigrated from Poland to the United States, with approximately 30,000 remaining in the Connecticut Valley.

Early records indicate that the first arrivals from Poland in the Palmer area came in the year 1886. The first Baptism of a Pole was recorded in St. Mary's Church in Thorndike in 1888. The ever-increasing number of Baptisms soon indicated the need for a Polish-speaking church.

The St. Joseph Society was organized in April of 1895 to unite the Polish community in the villages of Three Rivers, Thorndike and Bondsville to assist in meeting the needs and solving mutual problems of the new settlers.

The need for a Polish-speaking parish became paramount, and a church building committee was formed. Judge David Dillon served as adviser to the group and was instrumental in choosing the Four Corners site, geographic center of the town.

The committee was granted permission by the Most Rev. Bishop Thomas D. Beaven to

organize and establish the SS. Peter and Paul Parish. This task was entrusted to Rev. Wacław (Wenceslaus) Lenz in July, 1905. At the start, this fledgling parish numbered one thousand persons in Palmer and the Villages.

SS. Peter and Paul Church—the new parish to bear the names of the two outstanding apostles. Peter—successor to Christ—who was called from his fishing nets to follow Christ and become the Fisher of Men; and Paul—who had persecuted Christians and whose conversion on the way to Damascus resulted in his becoming the most prolific writer and influential evangelist of the Church. With such historic inspiration, the New Parish embarked upon its own unique history.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES

While there have been many organizations in our parish over one hundred years, the following remain active and vital:

Holy Rosary Sodality—The oldest parish organization, the Rosary Sodality was founded in 1903 by Mrs. Catherine Kosinska; and Mrs. Tekla Pobudzynska to promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the daily recitation of the Rosary. In the early years, both men and women were members, but for most of its history, the sodality's membership has been comprised of women. In the 1980s, membership was opened to women from other parishes. Meetings are held monthly on the first Saturday of the month after First Saturday Mass at 7:00 A.M. Current Co-Presidents: Barbara Yurkunas & Debbie O'Connor.

Ladies Guild—Founded in 1948 as the Mothers Club by Rev. Msgr. Alphonse Skoniecki for mothers of parish school children to support the school financially and otherwise; the name was changed in 1973 by Rev. Robert Ceckowski to the Ladies Guild initially to support the religious education program. At the same time, membership was opened to all women of the parish, married and single. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (except in June, July, and August). Current President: Sheila Gula.

Sacred Heart Society—Founded in 1913 by Rev. Andrew Krzywda for men and women of the parish to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Current President: Stephanie Putz.

Men's Guild—Founded in 1995 by Rev. Robert Ceckowski for the men of our parish, young and old as both a social and supportive group. The Men's Guild has become well-known for the wonderful parish dinners they organize and host in the parish hall several times throughout the year. Members also serve as ushers/collectors at Mass. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (except in summertime). Current President: Fred Orszulak.

Militia Immaculata Prayer Group—Formed in the late 1990s from the National Militia Immaculata (founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe, martyr of charity), the group usually meets on Mondays at 7 P.M. (excluding the first Monday of the month). Coordinators: Barbara & John Yurkunas.

Prayer Cenacle for Priests—A prayer group formed to pray specifically for the sanctification of priests and vocations to the priesthood that meets weekly in the church on Thursdays at 7:00 P.M. The evening of prayer closes with the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Adoration Society—Individuals (parishioners and non-parishioners) who pray for an hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament in our church during regular daily Eucharistic Adoration (see "Mass Schedule" for specific adoration hours). New adorers/substitutes are always welcome! Coordinator: Barbara Yurkunas, 283-3293.

Children of Mary Sodality/Junior Sodality—Founded in 1911 by Anna Kruczek &

Mary Szczepanek. This group was comprised mainly of the young ladies of the parish and was particularly active during the years of our parochial school for girls in grades 1-8. The highlight of the year was the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue in May by the 8th grade Queen and her court. After the school closed, the focus shifted to both grammar and high school girls. The group became a junior part of the Rosary Sodality and members participate in processions throughout the year, including the Coronation of Mary in May. Coordinators: Charlene Schultz, Charlene Czaja.

St. Cecilia & Holy Family Choirs—The St. Cecilia Choir is probably as old as our parish. Members sing at the Sunday 8:00 A.M. Mass, as well as for special Masses, Processions, and seasonal Devotions (e.g., Christmas Midnight Mass; Holy Week; Forty Hours). The Holy Family Choir was established in the 1990s for younger members of the parish. They sing at the weekly 9:30 A.M. Mass, as well as other special occasions (e.g., First Holy Communion; Thanksgiving Day). Occasionally, both choirs sing together (e.g., Corpus Christi; Coronation of Mary).

Rehearsals are held in the choir loft on Tuesdays—Holy Family Choir, 6:15 P.M.; St. Cecilia Choir, 7:15 P.M. New members are always welcome and encouraged to join! Current Director: Mark Narreau.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion—Men and women of the parish who are invited to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion. When lay persons were given permission by the Vatican to minister in this capacity, our parish began the practice in 1977. Extraordinary Ministers understand that when enough priests are available, their assistance is not needed. Current Coordinator: Michael Wostena.

Altar Servers—Young men of the parish who are invited to assist at serving the priest at the altar for Holy Mass and other Devotions. Boys who have made their First Holy Communion are eligible to become Altar Boys.

Lectors—A ministry open to any member of the parish, male and female, young and old. They proclaim the Word of God (except the Gospel which is reserved to priest and deacon) at both daily and Sunday Masses. Current Coordinator: Charlene Czaja.

Parish Staff—Pastor: Fr. Stefan Niemczyk; Religious Education Director: Michael J. Wostena; Parish Council Chairman: Fred P. Brozek; Parish Secretary: Lydia McKee; "The Parish Chronicle," weekly bulletin: Michael Wostena, Maryann Wostena, Fr. Stefan; Director of St. Cecilia (Senior) Choir & Holy Family (Junior) Choir: Mark Narreau; Organists: Mark Narreau; Mary Besko; Sacristans: Maryann Wostena, Michael Wostena; Facilities/maintenance: John Dziedzic, Fred Guzik.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT SHAMUS O. GOARE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and the residents of Danville of Staff Sgt. Shamus O. Goare upon the death of this outstanding soldier.

Staff Sgt. Goare was a member of the United States Army B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment